



May 25, 2025
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Meditation

Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words.

Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
6th Sunday of Easter / A Sabbath

May 25, 2025
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

** Call to Worship*

God, strengthen our faith

by firing up our imaginations

Because we know the Holy Creator works through us.

So, we can begin to stitch back together our community!

Powerful images are not empty or without meaning

but true symbols that guide us to probe this war-filled world.

Isn't this why God gave us an imagination anyway?

**So, we can look with the eyes of faith beyond surface
impressions**

to see what is really going on in our world

in order to recreate new worlds of flourishing for all!

** Invocation*

Liberating God, the imagination for what you want out of your people has been found and sprinkled throughout our Holy Scriptures and experienced in our own lives. The hard message of a clear lesson in this book is that God has searching eyes on corruption and those who openly participate. Let us rest in that. Give us wisdom to allow the creative symbolism and storytelling of our scripture to guide us in what needs to be done to discern the presence of this harm and then to remember joy and to embody love, peace and gratitude on this day and all the hard days ahead. Amen.

** Opening Hymn*

"Shall We Gather At The River?"

Mt Hope Insert

Greenfield FHP #491

Grace Insert

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Dearest God, we say to you that we cannot remember the last time we listened, truly listened to You and sought understanding, let alone see the childlike glory in another's spirit. We come forward to say that starting today, we change by becoming more present in our interactions with all of your creation and we hold no judgement and cast no shame on someone trying to exist in this cold complicated and beautiful world.

Words of Grace

We are indeed a Beloved Community capable of working towards collective flourishing for it is bright as crystal flowing from the throne of God. We are the light and let us shine brightly as we accompany others to abundance and collective freedom. Amen.

First Reading

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 NRSV

¹⁰ And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

²² I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵ Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

The River of Life

22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ Nothing accursed will be found there any

more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴ they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

John 5:1-9 NRSV

Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)

TH #497

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

5 After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

² Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. ³ In these lay many ill, blind, lame, and paralyzed people. ⁵ One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” ⁷ The ill man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way someone else steps down ahead of me.” ⁸ Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” ⁹ At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a Sabbath.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn*

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Mt Hope VH #15

Greenfield CH #33

Grace VH #15

Today's Message

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic/Christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

** Sung Response*

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

TH # 501

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement

Offertory (MH)

* Doxology

TH # 551

* Offertory Prayer

Still speaking God, we are witness to who Jesus is - from antiquity to modernity. Faithfully, we experience a grace that renews and enlivens us. Bless our offerings so others can be witness to the ways we live into your word so that our communities may be refreshed and restored. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn* *“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name”*

Mt Hope PH #60

Greenfield NCH #80

Grace TH #32

* *Benediction*

Let us go forth knowing that our spiritual and religious journey as Christians begins with one word, one name, one person: Jesus. Now let us be an example of what that means so others can witness our compassion and solidarity to the weeping, to the joyful, and to those we don't share common ideologies so that all might be refreshed in body and in spirit. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

A Sabbath: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday of Easter was written by (Rev. Ellie Hutchinson, who serves as the Minister for Congregational and Community Engagement for the United Church of Christ.